

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 6, 2003

LB 283, 285

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful and the committee amendments are adopted to LB 283. Mr. Clerk, item.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is by Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler would move to indefinitely postpone LB 283. Senator Landis, you would have the option to lay the bill over, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Did you say take it up...it is laid over. Mr. Clerk, next...

CLERK: Mr. President, the next bill for consideration, LB 285, is a bill introduced by Senator Landis. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 13, at that time referred to the Revenue Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM1643, Legislative Journal page 1540.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open on advancement of LB 285.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. LB 285 is essentially a continuation of 1085 from last year. It is a significant piece of revenue legislation. It's what many people wanted to talk about anyway. And I think Senator Chambers had suggested that we do heavy lifting on General File. Well, this is it. It doesn't get any heavier than this. LB 285 would amend Section 77-2701 to extend the current 5.5 percent sales tax rate, and that allows it to stay in place. Section 1 amends to make permanent the 30-cent increase in the cigarette tax that we enacted last year. As of October 1, 2004, 28 cents of the increase will go to the General Fund, and that is not the Cash Reserve Fund. Currently, that money is going to the Cash Reserve Fund. It will start going to the General Fund. And there will be 2 cents in the Building Renewal Fund, that's the LB 309 money, and that will be the 30 cents continuation. Section 2 makes the temporary reduction in the wholesalers' commission, which we enacted in the special session, permanent as well, and that's because it's based on the amount of tax that they collect. Since we essentially doubled our tax by 30 cents, and now we're going to continue that, the